

In the Specification:

Please insert the following above line 1 of page 2:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE

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This is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. 1.53 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/738,314, which has now been allowed. --.

In the Claims:

In addition to claims 1 to 7 please add the following claims 8 to 14:

8. A combination preparation for contraception comprising a first stage consisting of from 2 to 4 first stage daily dosage portions, a second stage consisting of two groups of second stage daily dosage portions, a third stage consisting of from 2 to 4 third stage daily dosage portions and an additional stage consisting of from 2 to 4 additional stage daily dosage portions;

wherein said first stage daily dosage portions each consist of an effective amount of at least one natural estrogen, said second stage daily dosage portions of said first group and said second group each consist of an effective amount of a combination of said at least one natural estrogen and at least one natural or synthetic gestogen, said third stage daily dosage portions each consist of an effective amount of said at least one natural estrogen and said additional stage daily dosage portions each consist of a pharmaceutically acceptable placebo;

wherein said first group of said second stage consists of 3 to 5 of said second stage daily dosage portions, said second group of said second stage

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consists of 13 to 17 of said second stage daily dosage portions and said second stage daily dosage portions each include more of said at least one synthetic or natural gestogen in said second group than in said first group; and

wherein said effective amount of said at least one natural estrogen is constant in said first stage and also constant in said third stage but said effective amount in said third stage is smaller than said effective amount in said first stage.

9. The combination preparation as defined in claim 8, wherein said at least one natural estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol compounds metabolized to said estradiol in the body, conjugated equine estrogens and phytoestrogens and said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen is selected from the group consisting of natural progesterone and synthetic gestogens.

10. The combination preparation as defined in claim 8, wherein said at least one natural estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, conjugated equine estradiol and estradiol valerate and said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen is selected from the group consisting of desogestrel, medoxyprogesterone acetate and dienogest.

11. The combination preparation as defined in claim 8, wherein said second stage daily dosage portions each include from 1.5 to 3 times more of said at least

one synthetic or natural gestogen in said second group than in said first group of said second stage.

12. A method of contraception, said method comprising the steps of:

a) administering from 2 to 4 first stage daily dosage portions each consisting of an effective amount of at least one natural estrogen in a first stage of the method;

b) after step a), administering a first group of 3 to 5 second stage daily dosage portions each consisting of a first effective amount of a combination of said at least one natural estrogen and at least one natural or synthetic gestogen in a second stage of the method;

c) after step b), administering a second group of 13 to 17 second stage daily dosage portions each consisting of a second effective amount of said combination of said at least one natural estrogen and said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen in the second stage of the method;

d) after step c), administering from 2 to 4 third stage daily dosage portions each consisting of an effective amount of said at least one natural estrogen in a third stage; and

e) after step d), administering in an additional stage consisting of from 2 to 4 additional stage daily dosage portions each consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable placebo;

wherein said second effective amount of said combination in said second group of said second stage includes more of said at least one synthetic or

natural gestogen than said first effective amount of said combination in said first group; and

wherein said effective amount of said at least one natural estrogen is constant in said first stage and also constant in said third stage, but said effective amount of said at least one natural estrogen is smaller in said third stage than in said first stage.

13. The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said at least one natural estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol compounds metabolized to said estradiol in the body, conjugated equine estrogens and phytoestrogens and said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen is selected from the group consisting of natural progesterone and synthetic gestogens.

14. The combination preparation as defined in claim 12, wherein said at least one natural estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, conjugated equine estradiol and estradiol valerate and said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen is selected from the group consisting of desogestrel, medoxyprogesterone acetate and dienogest.